



Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Missoula, MT

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

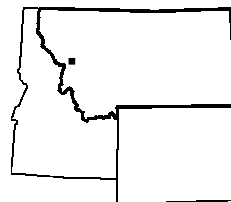
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA selected the City of Missoula for a Brownfields Pilot. Like many other communities throughout the northwest, Missoula's economy historically relied on the timber and mining industries. During the 1950s and 1960s, Missoula enjoyed great economic success. Within the last 20 years, however, the decline of the timber industry has resulted in massive job dislocation and abandonment of the city's timber processing facilities. Missoula's economy remains weak by national standards, and the city's poverty and unemployment rates are consistently higher than the national average.

The largest city (population 51,200) in Montana's Rocky Mountains, Missoula is entirely surrounded by mountainous terrain. The city's lack of available flat land has further impeded urban growth. The city's population increased nearly 20 percent from 1990 to 1996, and demands for land continue to increase. By focusing on its brownfields, Missoula hopes to return idle properties to productive use and promote economic recovery for the city. The Pilot plans to develop and implement strategies that will lead to the cleanup and redevelopment of a large, abandoned mill site [the Missoula Sawmill (formerly Champion Mill)] and a neighborhood area adjacent to another abandoned mill. Both sites together total more than 100 acres.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Missoula, Montana

Date of Award: September 1998

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets two large sites in a city where available space for new and expanding industry is severely limited.

Contacts:

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(303) 312-6626

Visit the EPA Region 8 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region08/cross/brown/brownf.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

The neighborhood area, which is adjacent to the state Superfund White Pine Sash site, is on the north side of town. The Missoula Sawmill site is located along the south shore of the Clark Fork River. The threat of real and perceived contamination at these sites has affected adjacent neighborhoods, resulting in rapid residential turnover rates and low levels of property investment.

OBJECTIVES

To foster redevelopment, Missoula will build on existing growth management strategies, economic development plans, and other community-wide policies and initiatives. The processes used to return the two targeted sites to productive use will serve as models for the redevelopment of other city brownfields. The Pilot activities will address both the real and perceived environmental issues associated with each of the targeted sites through assessment and outreach. The Pilot will also help reduce any environmental health threats posed by the two targeted brownfields.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Pilot has:

- Completed the major portions of Phase I and Phase II site assessment activities for the residential area adjoining the White Pine Sash site, and completed a final Phase II report; and
- Completed the major portions of Phase I and Phase II site assessment activities for the Missoula Sawmill site, and is preparing a draft Phase II report.

The Pilot is:

- Working in coordination with the neighborhoods and the city planning department to develop a master plan that will include mixed-use redevelopment of commercial and park areas for the Missoula Sawmill site;
- Working with the owners of the White Pine Sash site to develop an on-site redevelopment plan that will meet neighborhood objectives that are already established for the Northside/Westside Neighborhood Plan;
- Using meetings, newsletters, and outreach materials to improve the effectiveness of the Stakeholder Working Group, which is working to develop public and private brownfields cleanup partnerships in the Pilot area; and

- Continuing community participation to ensure that low-income residents living adjacent to the two brownfields are fully informed and actively participating in the decision-making process for the targeted sites.
- Using meetings, newsletters, and outreach materials to improve the effectiveness of the Stakeholder Working Group, which is working to develop public and private brownfields cleanup partnerships in the Pilot area; and
- Continuing community participation to ensure that low-income residents living adjacent to the two brownfields are fully informed and actively participating in the decision-making process for the targeted sites.